

From: -rb (Robert T. Brown)
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:36am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I strongly believe that the proposed Microsoft settlement is too favorable to the Microsoft Monopoly.

Hello. My name is Robert Brown and I'm a computer software engineer, living in Virginia.

The proposed settlement allows Microsoft to continue to grow their monopoly, at the expense of other companies and fellow hobbyists. Simply put, Microsoft (or any other rich and highly entrenched monopoly) can afford the most & best lawyers to find loopholes for the company to exploit. I acknowledge that eliminating loopholes is a difficult undertaking; however, we citizens rely on the government to do so (no one else can afford to take them on at this point).

I see many weaknesses in the settlement, and I'm not a even a lawyer. Many of the weaknesses are described in this document: <http://www.kegel.com/remedy/>

This monopolistic situation stifles innovation and competition, and is a serious threat to the continued growth of the computer industry. I personally believe that the computer industry has a chance to revolutionize society, and to reaffirm American leadership worldwide, as the industrial revolution once did.

Please strengthen the settlement, for the sake of other American computer companies, and the American people as well.

-rb

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<http://www.netmentor.com/~rbrown>
"Real programmers use 'cat > a.out'."